

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ~~ADMINISTRATION~~ SERVICE  
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS  
MAYAGUEZ, PUERTO RICO

FEDERAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
IN PUERTO RICO

April 7, 1954

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Genetics Department  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Professor Lederberg:

Dr. Warmke has asked me to assist you in your search for a small supply of the glucoside "indican".

The two species which are reported to contain appreciable amounts of indican are Indigofera tinctoria and I. suffruticosa. Both of these species grow here in Puerto Rico.

Our experimental plots have a stand of I. suffruticosa, but unfortunately this legume is seeding at the present time. It has little vegetative growth, and would not yield sufficient material at the present time.

I. tinctoria grows wild in Puerto Rico but none could be found near Mayaguez. We hope to collect a large sample from the southern part of the island within the next few weeks. We will dry and mail you the plant material. At that same time we will also try isolating the glucoside from another sample of I. tinctoria and if successful will mail you the indican which we obtain.

During this long period of delay you might be able to get a small sample of indican from the Hawaiian Experiment Station. The Poultry Husbandry Department there fed this glucoside to chicks during their investigation of the toxicity of I. endecaphylla.

Yours truly,

*Murrell P. Morris*  
Murrell P. Morris  
Chemist